

Working for Northwest Washington

Project Highlights - FY 2003 -

This region includes: Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties.

TRANSPORTATION

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/transportation>

Elimination of Ferry Passenger Fee

Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Congressman Norm Dicks eliminated a planned three-dollar fee for international ferry passengers, which was to take effect on February 27th, 2003.

I-5, SR 542- Widening Sunset Drive Orleans to Britton Road (\$2 million)

These funds will be used to design and widen Sunset Drive, an overcrowded rural two-lane highway in Bellingham.

Friday Harbor Ferry Terminal Preservation (\$2 million)

This project will replace old, environmentally harmful, creosote-treated timber pile dolphins and wing-walls with concrete and steel technology. The new steel pipe pile technology has proven to be far more durable and has a documented history of reducing terminal slip casualties in the event of a hard landing.

Mount Vernon Multi-Modal Facility (\$1.16 million)

This project will upgrade the current multi-modal facility to alleviate congestion.

Paine Field Air Traffic Control Improvements (\$925,000)

This funding is to make improvements to Paine Field's air traffic control system.

Cascade Gateway Project (\$750,000)

This funding supports several smaller projects to improve infrastructure at the Northern Border in order to increase security while retaining the efficient flow of commercial goods.

Island Transit (\$632,000)

This funding will help replace two 30-foot and three 25-foot buses.

Northern Puget Sound Intermodal Facilities and Improvements (\$400,000)

This funding will fund a study of how to expand the Sounder Commuter Rail from Everett north to Blaine.

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Cattle Point Road (\$350,000)

Unrelenting erosion threatens the portion of Cattle Point Road that rests on an unstable bluff of sand and gravel, and it is estimated that in 5-10 years the sea will claim the cliff on which the road now runs. Currently San Juan County is working on an Environmental Impact Statement. This funding will assist the county in its efforts. Murray visited Cattle Point Road in April 2003.

Island Transit (\$288,000)

This small bus grant will help replace 18 Island Transit vanpool vans.

Bellingham – Central Ave Pedestrian Corridor - Prospect Street to the Waterfront (250,000)

This funding will help complete the final phase of the Pedestrian Corridor by supporting efforts to connect the Hillclimb and Amphitheater to the Civic Center.

Oak Harbor Ferry Terminal (200,000)

This funding will help make repairs and improvements to the passenger ferry terminal.

Blaine / Whiterock International Ferry (\$200,000)

This funding will be used to plan and research an international ferry that would connect the Semiahmoo Peninsula with the Canadian city of White Rock. (FY 2002)

Northern Border Cascade Projects (\$2.5 million)

At the request of the Whatcom County Council, this grant will provide funding to improve the border infrastructure along the Northern border, by repairing and improving roads and facilities. (FY 2002)

SECURITY/COAST GUARD

See also: http://murray.senate.gov/coast_guard and http://murray.senate.gov/port_security

5 New Coast Guard Boats for Washington State (\$400,000)

Murray secured 5 new Coast Guard boats for Washington stations, which will be delivered over the next few years. Those boats include an 87' cutter in Port Angeles, and an 87' cutter for Bellingham.

Northern Border Security

This includes funding for the Blain Border Patrol Station (\$500,000), the Oroville Border Patrol Station (\$1.1 million), and the Colville Border Patrol Station lease acquisition (\$3 million).

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Northern Border Agents (\$57.2 million)

Murray secured increased funding for Border Patrol Agents. This increase will allow INS to create 570 more positions for new Border Patrol Agents, bringing the total number of grants to 11,000.

Whidbey Island Naval Air Station

The Whidbey Island Naval Air Station received \$9.18 million for an Aircraft Direct Refueling Facility and \$8.4 million for a security fence in Ault Field through the Military Construction Appropriations Bill.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/justice>

Whatcom County Multi-Jurisdictional Criminal Justice Data Integration Project (\$1 million)

This funding will enable Whatcom County law enforcement officials to share data and information with appropriate justice agencies within the country and across the state.

Whatcom County Law Enforcement (\$500,000)

These funds will help Whatcom County upgrade law enforcement data processing.

New Police Officers for Northwest Washington

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov>

Senator Murray has championed the community oriented policing services (COPS) program. She voted for the law that created it in 1993 and every year she has worked to fund this effort to put new police officers on the streets of these communities where they work closely with residents. Since 1994, Senator Murray's support of this program has put more than 1,800 new police officers on the beat in Washington State.

NORTHWEST REGION	75.8 *	\$8,843,017
Island County	9.8	\$1,063,340
San Juan County	3.8	\$218,750
Skagit County	21.5	\$1,923,473
Whatcom County	40.7	\$5,637,454

* Note: Decimals reflect that some county police departments only requested a portion of a full-time officer's salary.

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ENVIRONMENT

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/environment>

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (\$1.4 million)

These funds will support volunteer salmon enhancement programs.

Island County – Deer Lagoon (\$600,000)

This funding will allow Island County to purchase the 397-acre Deer Lagoon property on Whidbey Island. The appropriation will fund the purchase of undeveloped wetland property which provides better habitat for wildlife, including 170 species of resident and migratory birds. Island County plans to protect the land and create a park for public enjoyment and recreation.

City of Blaine Wastewater Plant (\$225,000)

These funds will be used to assist the City of Blaine in planning a new waste water treatment plant for the region. Senator Murray supported the house funding in the conference committee.

Northwest Straits Commission (\$795,000)

The Northwest Straits consist of the near shore habitat and open waters of northern Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and George's Strait to the Canadian border. In 1998, Senator Murray and former Rep. Jack Metcalf created the Northwest Straits Commission to address the declining health of marine ecosystems in the Northwest region of the state.

Senator Murray has made securing funding for the Northwest Straits Commission one of her highest priorities. In fiscal year 2002, Senator Murray provided \$950,000 for the Commission through appropriations in two different bills: \$700,000 in the Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary bill, and \$250,000 in the Environmental Protection Agency's budget in the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies bill. In fiscal year 2003, Senator Murray secured \$795, 000 for the initiative by inserting \$750,000 in the CJSJ bill and \$45,000 into EPA's budget.

See: www.NWstraights.org or <http://murray.senate.gov/environment>

Lummi Tribe, Semiahmah Memorial and Coast Salish Heritage Park (\$90,000)

The Tribe will use the funding to complete initial plans and begin implementing development of the Semiahmah Memorial and the Coast Salish Heritage Park. During expansion of the City of Blaine's wastewater treatment facility, a tribal burial ground was desecrated and human remains were illegally transported across state lines. The Lummi Tribe and other local partners are now working together to restore and enhance the tribal burial grounds.

Oil Spill Prevention in the Strait of Juan de Fuca (\$1.6 million)

This project will provide funding for the Captain of the Port in the Puget Sound to improve oil spill mitigation and prevention.

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HEALTH CARE

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/healthcare>

Health Care Clinic in Point Roberts (\$200,000)

Murray helped to secure this federal grant on March 20, 2002 to establish the only health care clinic in this region. Without this facility, residents have needed to travel 50 miles crossing the Canadian border twice to get basic medical care. Because of the delays, the trip can take up to four hours. [Details](#)

Programs to Reduce Alcohol Abuse among Mount Vernon Youth (\$1,270,456)

This federal grant money was awarded under the U.S. Department of Education's Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse Program, to support the development and implementation of programs to reduce alcohol abuse in secondary schools.

Veteran's Health Care

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/veterans>

During the 107th Congress, Senator Murray continued her work to improve access to health care for Washington's veterans, especially for those in the most under-served parts of our state. Veterans across North Central and Northwest Washington often must travel extremely long distances to consult a physician for basic health care. In 2002, Senator Murray wrote legislation to create a pilot program to provide basic medical services to veterans in Whatcom, Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Kittitas counties. Murray's legislation would supply trained medical staff to veterans on a weekly basis, offering basic health care, diagnostic services, and needed referrals to appropriate medical facilities. Murray's amendment passed the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in June 2002; however, it was dropped during the House-Senate Conference. Murray will try again this year.

AGRICULTURE

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/agriculture>

Organic Crop Research (\$125,000)

Organic crops are the fastest growing section of Washington's agricultural economy. The Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources is developing a comprehensive organic farming research and education program to assist Washington State's organic producers. The Center will address project areas that are not covered by competitive grants, including: development of certified organic experimental land; organic seed protection and production technology; integrating nutrient management, water management, and pest control; organic weed control methods; and effect of production practices on food quality. The project will benefit consumers, the environment, and both organic and conventional farmers.